CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1332
30 June 1995

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 26 JUNE 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MEXICO ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO CONCERNING THE DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE TO RESUME NUCLEAR TESTS

The Permanent Mission of Mexico to the international organizations having their headquarters at Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to transmit herewith the press release from the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Government of Mexico concerning the decision by the Government of France to resume nuclear tests.

The Permanent Mission would be grateful if the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament would arrange for this text to be distributed as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

GE.95-62317 (E)

MEXICO'S CONCERN AT THE DECISION BY SOME COUNTRIES
TO CARRY OUT NUCLEAR TESTS

Our country reaffirms its decision to continue fighting in the international forums responsible for negotiating the various aspects of disarmament.

Tlatelolco, D.F., 20 June 1995.

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The Government of Mexico has communicated to the Governments of the nuclear Powers its concern at the decision by some of them to resume nuclear tests despite the exhortation by the Review and Extension Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that they should exercise utmost restraint in this regard.

It will be recalled that Mexico, supported by a large majority of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, submitted at this recent Conference in New York a concrete proposal not only for the designation of 1996 as the time-limit for the conclusion of negotiations on a convention banning all nuclear tests without exception but also for the adoption of an immediate moratorium on this type of tests.

While Mexico's first proposal was adopted by consensus, the proposal to declare an immediate moratorium on nuclear tests was not accepted, precisely because of the opposition of some nuclear Powers. Instead, as we observe above, a paragraph was included in which the nuclear States are asked to exercise the utmost restraint in this regard.

Mexico feels that the nuclear test carried out by the Republic of China on 15 May last, the announcement by France of a series of nuclear tests to be carried out in the South Pacific and the statement by a senior United States representative to the effect that his country might also resume nuclear testing do not create a propitious climate for the performance of the series of important agreements adopted by consensus at the aforementioned Conference and jeopardize not only future disarmament negotiations but also the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Nuclear testing is the most direct method of improving military arsenals. That being so, it is inconceivable that anyone should wish to continue the arms race now, when the nuclear arsenals already in existence are estimated to be equivalent to one million times the yield of the Hiroshima atomic bomb, energy enough to wipe out the world's population forty times over.

In this context, Mexico reaffirms its decision to continue fighting in the international forums responsible for negotiating the various aspects of disarmament, to ensure that the goals that have been set are achieved and has, to that end, begun consultations with other countries that share its point of view.